

**CALIFORNIA WILDLIFE HABITAT RELATIONSHIPS SYSTEM**  
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M020 Mexican Long-tongued Bat *Choeronycteris mexicana*  
Family: Phyllostomidae Order: Chiroptera Class: Mammalia

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#### DISTRIBUTION, ABUNDANCE, AND SEASONALITY

The mexican long-tongued bat is known in California only from San Diego Co. and only as a summer resident (Arroyo-Cabrales 1999). California records largely have been in urban habitat in San Diego (Olson 1947). In New Mexico and Arizona, long-tongued bats have been found from sea level to 2400 m (6000 ft), occupying desert and montane riparian, desert succulent shrub, desert scrub, and pinyon-juniper habitats.

#### SPECIFIC HABITAT REQUIREMENTS

**Feeding:** The long-tongued bat primarily is a nectar feeder. The diet usually is about 75% nectar, 25% pollen. Fruits occasionally are eaten; insect use is rare. The flight of this species is slow and maneuverable. Hovers while feeding.

**Cover:** Uses caves, mines and buildings as day roosts, preferring dimly-lit sites (Arroyo-Cabrales et al. 1987).

**Reproduction:** Uses caves, mines, and probably buildings as nursery sites.

**Water:** Probably obtains sufficient water from food.

**Pattern:** In Mexico, New Mexico, and Arizona, occupies deep canyons of desert mountain ranges. Forages in desert and montane riparian, desert scrub, desert succulent shrub, and pinyon-juniper habitats.

#### SPECIES LIFE HISTORY

**Activity Patterns:** Peak activity occurs in the first 1 1/2 hr after sunset; then declines to a low level until 3 1/2 hr after sunset.

**Seasonal Movements/Migration:** Migrates to follow flowering of food plants, particularly agave and yucca. Winters in Mexico and northern Central America.

**Home Range:** No data found.

**Territory:** Long-tongued bats may be found as solitary individuals, or as groups of up to several dozen. Both sexes roost together.

**Reproduction:** Pregnant females have been found from February through September. Most births occur in June and early July. The single young is furred. Lactation usually occurs from June through August.

Niche: This species pollinates some plants such as agaves and columnar cacti. May share roosts with *Plecotus townsendii* and *Macrotus californicus*.

Comments: This species is wary and very sensitive to disturbance of roost sites. An invasion in 1946 provided most of the California records for long-tongued bats (Olson 1947).

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